Yonkers, N. Y. 10 mo. 1 st. /65

Beloved Friend

W. L. Garrison.

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I write to thee, in confidence that thou wilt give me thy official inflence, in the appointment I have suggested in the accompanying letter, to our mutual friend J. M. McKim. I will transcribe my appeal to him, that thou may fully understand its import- viz —

10th Mo 1 — /65

"I really wish I had [illegible] possessed a knowledge, when we were together, which has come to me to day, of thy favorable position to throw a controlling influence, in giving a situation to J. G. Forman, in the American Freedmens' Aid Commission.

He is Secy. of the Western Sanitary Commission, whose work is probably drawing to a close, & it is in this view, that I wish in an especial manner, to interest thee in giving him a place in the new Department.

I do not know whether thou art acquainted with him, or whether thou hast a recommend for him from the Board of Officers at St. Louis. I conclude that that city needs a most efficient officer, & I regard J. G. F. as a man most

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admirably fitted for the position. I have known him for 15 years, & by personal communion & correspondence, I feel that I can somewhat estimate his claim for consideration, in a gift so important as that I am considering.

During the early years of my acquaintance with him, I honored him for his Christian integrity in the maintenance of a noble testimony against slavery, for which he thrice suffered comparative martyrdom. I would not, however, recommend him to your Commission on acct. of the sacrifices of that day, but rather, as I have said on acct. of his *peculiar fitness for the place*; — *for his great executive power*, — *for his devotion to the best & highest interests of the Freedmen*, to which in a past letter to me he refers where he says — "The Freedmen of Missouri & St. Louis have a claim from which we cannot turn. They are constantly coming to me with their wrongs, & seeking advice & aid in getting redress. The poor, the wretched & miserable of them come to me, & I am helping them. The wives & widows of colored soldies (living & deceased) are coming to me for aid about pay, bounty, pensions &c. Others come to find out how they may collect debts due them. Schools also are needed for their children, & there is a great work to teach

We shall love to see thee in our new home. J. M. McK. was here last 6th day them how to exercise the rights of freemen, — how to elevate themselves, — how to overcome the disadvantages of their past condition &c. There are many colored orphans to be cared for, & a constant oversight & aid ~~xx~~ are required at my hands. How much, too, is called for to improve public opinion, & move the Legislature, through its members to do this people justice, & provide for their education."

A long extract, & I have used it for a purpose of which the writer never dreamed when he penned it, that thou may see his appreciation of his present duties.

Any addition would weaken the foregoing, & hence I leave it, with barely saying, that I have always regarded him, as with parental affection, & that I cannot but hope he may secure the place.

With kind regard, most cordially thy
Assured Friend
N. Barney."

So much to Miller McKim, & I will not tax thee further on this acct. except to ask thy co-operation.

How often I thought of thee, Dear Friend, in our 4 years struggle, & how I sympathized with thee in the course thou pursued in the Presidential campaign!

Thou hast yet work to do, & I can trust thee that thou wilt be faithful to thy convictions.

We shall love to see thee in our new home. J. M. McK. was here last 6th Day

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